

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 295890

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

S E C R E T STATE 295890

NODIS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM SEOUL DTD 16 DEC
1975

QTE S E C R E T SEOUL 9663

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DEPT PASS TOKYO, OTTAWA, PARIS, IAEA VIENNA FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PARM, KS, FR, CA

SUBJECT: ROK NUCLEAR REPROCESSING

REF: SEOUL 9662

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT DISCUSSION POINTS CONCERNING THE
PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY COOPERATION HANDED TO THE
AMBASSADOR AT CLOSE MEETING DECEMBER 16, REPORTED REFTEL.

BEGIN TEXT:

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PAGE 02 STATE 295890

SOME DISCUSSION GUIDELINES CONCERNING NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING HAVE COME TO ME FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AS A RESULT OF THE DECEMBER 5 DISCUSSION AT HIS OFFICE. MINISTER HYUNG-SUP CHOI IS AT THE MOMENT ABROAD BUT IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO KOREA WITHIN THIS WEEK. SINCE THERE ARE VERY IMPORTANT MATTERS CONCERNING THIS SUBJECT WHICH ARE IN URGENT NEED OF DECISIONS, I AM PREPARING A REPORT TO MAKE POSSIBLE THE RECOMMENDATION OF APPROPRIATE ACTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND TO FACILITATE HIS DECISION MAKING.

WE NEED DETAILED INFORMATION ON YOUR SUGGESTIONS SO THAT MINISTER CHOI CAN MAKE THE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRIME MINISTER. WE WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO EXPAND ASSISTANCE IN THE AREA OF THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND ALSO TO BROADEN ITS TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN OTHER SCIENTIFIC AREAS.

1. YOU HAVE INDICATED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS NOT ADVERSE TO ROK'S ACQUISITION OF LOW-ENRICHED FUEL FABRICATION TECHNOLOGY FROM FRANCE. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF, IN ADDITION TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FROM U.S. SOURCES, THE U.S. GOVT WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE CAPITAL ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF A FUEL FABRICATION PROJECT IN THE FUTURE.

2. AS YOU KNOW, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA GIVES FULL SUPPORT TO THE IDEA OF A MULTI-NATIONAL REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING CENTER IN THE FAR EAST. WE WISH THEN TO HAVE SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING:

- (A) WHEN SUCH A FACILITY WOULD BE ESTABLISHED
- (B) WHERE IT WOULD BE LOCATED
- (C) THE NAMES OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES
- (D) THE CENTER'S WORK SCOPE AND CAPACITY
- (E) ROK'S ENVISIONED ROLE IN THE CENTER

WE ALSO WISH TO KNOW IF THE US WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPORT KOREAN TECHNICIANS IN RECEIVING TRAINING IN THE U.S. IN ADVANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 295890

3. CONCERNING YOUR OFFER TO ROK OF ACCESS TO NON-SENSITIVE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING, WE WISH TO KNOW IF YOUR GOVERNMENT COULD GIVE SUPPORT TO THE FOLLOWING WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF OUR LONG RANGE NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

- (A) DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR DESIGN CAPABILITIES AND THE NECESSARY TRAINING FOR SAME.

(B) DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR BUILDING CAPABILITIES AND THE NECESSARY TRAINING, OR ALTERNATIVELY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT VENTURE PROJECT FOR NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

(C) DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGIES FOR NUCLEAR REACTOR SAFETY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT AND THE REQUIRED TRAINING

(D) THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL AND SUPPORT FOR THE EMPLOYMENT BY KOREA OF THE AMERICAN TECHNICAL EXPERTS REQUIRED FOR THESE THREE ITEMS.

4. REGARDING YOUR SUGGESTION OF HELP IN OBTAINING ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN A SAFE AND MOST ECONOMICAL MANNER, I WISH TO HAVE YOUR REACTIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:

(A) WILL THE U.S. GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE AN ENRICHMENT SERVICES CONTRACT TO MEET ALL KOREAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT REQUIREMENTS IN THE FUTURE?

(B) WILL THE U.S. GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE REPROCESSING SERVICES EVEN BEFORE THE COMMERCIAL OPERATION OF THE MULTI-NATIONAL REGIONAL FUEL REPROCESSING CENTER?

KOREA EXPECTS TO HAVE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING THE FINANCING REQUIRED FOR ITS LONG RANGE NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. WILL THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSIST KOREA IN OBTAINING LOANS ON FAVORABLE TERMS FOR THE PURCHASE OF NATURAL URANIUM AND NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS FROM THE U.S.?

WE WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF AN EARLY RESPONSE SINCE
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PAGE 04 STATE 295890

THESE RESPONSES WILL BE OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN THE PROCESS OF OUR DECISION MAKING. END TEXT.
SNEIDER UNQTE INGERSOLL

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